

Faith and Inspiration

Fear Itself

Fear is such a primal emotion. It is typically rooted in uneasiness over the unknown, reactions to potential threats, and even assertions of unverified assumptions. It is interesting to observe that various cultural traditions emerged based on a dread of perceived menaces originating from suspicions, anxieties, and outright terror. Sometimes, superstition supersedes reasonable concerns that might occur in the face of actual harm, and we are left with peculiar phobias, aversions, and misgivings about black cats, the 13th day of a month occurring on a Friday, broken mirrors, and clowns (although there may be some reliable psychological support for that last one).

On the one hand, fear can be a potentially practical motivator to aid in avoiding genuine danger or disaster. Fear of pain may dissuade us from touching a flame and getting burned.

On the other hand, fear can become overwhelming or paralyzing. For instance, if it escalates to a revulsion that prevents us from experiencing the possible benefits of fire — maintaining warmth, cooking food, keeping dangerous predators at bay — then it becomes counter-productive.

Scripture reveals that God's response to our fear encompasses comfort, encouragement, assurance, and motivation. From Moses and the Israelites (Exodus 3:6-17, Exodus 14:10-14) to Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-38); from Elijah the prophet (1 Kings 19:5-18) to the women at the empty tomb (Matthew 28:5-10); from Jonah (Jonah 2:1-2, 10) to Peter (Matthew 14:26-33); the Bible is replete with instances and illustrations of people exhibiting some degree of fear in their circumstances, and of God providing the spiritual — and often physical — support needed in their situations. Even in the midst of fear, God meets us where we are.

There are those who might interpret certain passages of Scripture as a moratorium on fear, as if we are being commanded to censor or suppress any emotion that could be perceived as "negative." Despite what some may claim, it is not necessarily "sinful" to experience or acknowledge fear.

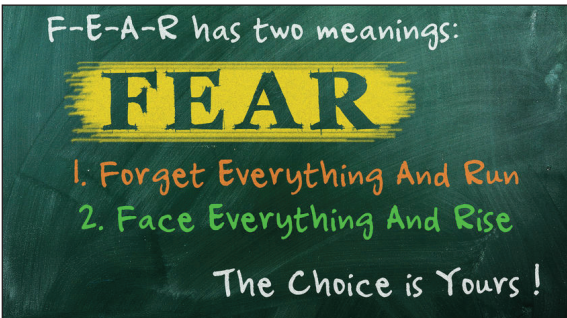
Contrary to some assertions, all fear is not necessarily the handiwork of Satan. It is important to understand that how we deal with fear is as much a reflection of our faith as the manner in which we exercise any other emotion in the context of our relationship with God.

We are exhorted to overcome and work through our fears and to learn to trust wholly in God. He desires that we not become captive to fear, any more than we should be oppressed by any emotion that we will inevitably endure throughout our life journey.

While emotions are a valid aspect of human existence, it was never intended that our actions and intentions be governed or precipitated by them exclusively. For believers, the Holy Spirit guides us in learning how to regulate and resolve our feelings. While



Vincent V. Marshburn
Homestead Mennonite Church



society might often uphold "fearlessness" as an admirable or ideal trait, courage in the face of fear is often a true indicator of character. In the prequel television series "Star Trek: Enterprise,"

Ensign Hoshi Sato, an expert in linguistics, is initially quite timid and apprehensive regarding space travel. While starship crews are typically portrayed as bold, daring, and adventurous, Sato only hesitantly joins the mission to spearhead Earth's early foray into the further reaches of the galaxy. At the behest of Captain Jonathan Archer of the Enterprise, she reluctantly accepts the commission to aid in the contact and communication with alien civilizations, with all the complexities and even dangers that might entail.

In a particular episode, Ensign Sato is compelled to tolerate teleportation via the ship's rudimentary transporter device. Not unexpectedly nor unjustifiably, she expresses serious doubts regarding the reliability of the mechanism to disassemble her molecules, stream them from one location to another, and reassemble them into their original state. Against her better judgment, Sato allows herself to undergo the de-materialization/re-materialization process from the surface of a planet back aboard the ship. She immediately proceeds to exhibit misgivings about her physical composition, certain that the transporter must have misplaced at least a cell or two of her body.

Sato's worst fears manifest, and her post-transporter experience deteriorates as she finds herself suffering from what appears to be a kind of "dissolution" of the matter in her body, as substances and solid materials soon begin to seemingly

pass through her physical form.

To compound her anxiety and rising panic, the ship now appears to be the target of alien saboteurs — apparently invisible to the rest of the crew — seeking retribution for violating their sacred grounds on the planet below. Sato assumes that her peculiarly precarious condition is responsible for her ability to perceive these intruders.

As the aliens attempt to exit the ship via their own transporter device, Sato, in a desperate attempt to intervene, rushes to follow them, despite her own dread and haunting ordeal. In the moment, her concern for the well-being of her fellow crew members overrides any phobias that happen to plague her.

Ultimately, Sato reappears on the transporter pad of the Enterprise, entirely intact, to the sound and sight of crew mates welcoming and reassuring her. As she begins to frantically warn them of the impending doom, they explain that her molecular pattern had been caught in the transporter's buffer storage for a bit longer than anticipated — approximately eight seconds.

Sato comes to realize that her recent perceived "experience" from the time of initially re-materializing on the ship has been, in fact, a kind of hallucination. Captain Archer commends her for her mental act of attempting to save the ship by pursuing the illusory aliens through their own transporter.

SATO: Well, I hope you don't plan on beaming me anywhere for a long time.

ARCHER: But you said you stepped on to the aliens' transporter by choice.

SATO: I was trying to save Enterprise.

ARCHER: Sounds like you overcame your fear.

SATO: It's all in my head, remember?

ARCHER: Does it matter? You were afraid of getting lost, afraid of disappearing, but you still climbed on to that platform, real or not.

SATO: If it's all the same to you, sir, I'd like to stick to shuttles for the time being.

Fear can be instrumental, and we need not be afraid of fear itself. When we choose to confront a challenge despite any trepidation we may feel, we are demonstrating fortitude that may not occur naturally.

The Bible does not guarantee that a believer will never experience fear or doubt. Rather, we are counseled to pursue and embrace God's love and will in our lives. When his love becomes our primary motivation, we can vanquish fear — indeed, his Spirit will enable us to master our emotions. As 1 John 4:18 states: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear."

Obituary

Homer W. Knowles

Homer W. Knowles, Air Force veteran and former Pan American pilot, passed away at Homestead Baptist Hospital, Thursday, October 19, 2023.

A native Floridian, Homer was born January 23, 1939, in Miami and graduated from University of Miami.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1966 and when he was assigned to Otis Air Force Base in Cape Cod, he met Yvonne C. Donley, who was also in the Air Force. They married in 1966 and he transitioned into Pan Am Airlines.

They lived in San Francisco and relocated to Florida in 1983. He chose Homestead because of the small-town spirit, reminiscent of the Miami of his youth.

An avid angler, University of Miami Hurricanes fan, and map collector, he is survived by his wife Yvonne C. Knowles, and, sister, Charlene (Knowles) Koger, brother-in-law, Jeff Koger, and nephew Chris Martin.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a future date.



Patrick Joseph Neafsey

Patrick Joseph Neafsey, formerly from Homestead, passed away peacefully at home in Dunedin, FL, October 11, 2023 at the age of 87.

He was born to John and Nellie Neafsey on March 20, 1936 in Coral Gables, FL.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard, graduated from the University of Miami and retired from Proctor and Gamble after 27 years.

He was an avid golfer and tennis player, loved kayaking and hiking in the North Georgia Mountains. He was known as a Gentle Gentleman. He was a wonderful father, grandfather and devoted husband. Patrick was predeceased by his parents, John and Nellie Neafsey, sister Mary Magee, and brothers, Jimmy, Roddy and Eddie Neafsey.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Brenda Neafsey of Dunedin and the mother of his children, Joyce Angus, of Dunedin, FL, daughters Linda and Laurie (Paul), and son Brian (Lois); Stepsons Michael, Tonn (Richelle) and Doni Davis; nine grandchildren and two greatgrandsons, 23 nieces and nephews; siblings Ellen Neafsey, John Neafsey (Linda), Katy Burkhalter and Gail Miller.

Patrick will be truly missed by his family and all who loved him.

A private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.



To submit an obituary or death notice, email wording and jpg photo to info@newsleadermail.com, 305-245-2311 Print deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Temple Hatikvah

Homestead Jewish Center
A Reform Congregation

183 NE 8th St., Homestead
For information please call
305-454-4944
or visit www.thhjc.org

FSU Eyes Bonds for Stadium Project



Doak Campbell Stadium at FSU is due for a major renovation. FSU

NSF - The Florida State University Board of Trustees on Friday will consider a plan to issue up to \$265 million in bonds for a major renovation of Doak Campbell Stadium.

The trustees are scheduled to take up a resolution that would seek approval from the state university system's Board of Governors to issue bonds.

The resolution said the project will lead to a "full renovation" of the west side of the football stadium, with the work beginning in November and finishing by September 2025.

The project will include "removing approximately 27,000 seats and adding back

over 16,000 seats," the resolution said.

"Improvements to the west side of the stadium will include new club seating, a commissary and kitchen, suites, lounges, and upgrades to antiquated infrastructure. The project will also result in a renovation of the south end zone of the stadium, which will include the addition of loge boxes and the installation of breathable mesh seats."

Money from a variety of sources would back the bonds, including athletic-conference revenues distributed to FSU, Seminole Booster membership fees, sponsorships and ticket sales, according to the resolution.

Lady Immortals Finish Second in Regional Tournament

By Kevin Lewis

And just like that, the Lady Immortals 10-U continue their rise to the top of the region, with a second place NFL FLAG South Regional Tournament win on October 21st in New Orleans.

While just missing the chance to represent the New Orleans Saints in the 2024 NFL Pro Bowl — finishing second in the tournament is definitely a huge win for the Lady Immortals and South Dade, said Immortals founder Rudy Trevino.

Watching as they practiced twice a week over the last two months,

Trevino is still beaming over their continued progress, and their experience last weekend at the Shine On Airline & Ochsner Sports Performance Center, hosted by the New Orleans Saints.

"There is a lot of growth happening for these young ladies," said Trevino. "To go play in a championship game at the New Orleans Saints facility [was] big, some of the girls [were] shell-shocked."

And with their talent, Trevino also expressed their future success is right around the corner.

"This team is so

young and athletic," Trevino said, "I believe over the next couple years, these young ladies should make a big run for a national championship."

As such, the team is currently fundraising for their next chance to compete in the November 19 NFL FLAG South Regional Fall Tournament in Tampa, to represent the Buccaneers in the 2024 NFL Pro Bowl — visit their Instagram page at Immortals7v7 for more details on how to support their journey, and additional team information.



Between the Saints Mascot and Cheer Squad (top row) Azariah Henly, Naimah Trevino, Trinity Jackson, Nayla Jaramillo; (bottom row) Riley Davis, Makyah Kennedy, Alessandra Pitts. Rudy Trevino

CANES from 2B there and do the things he did. Early in the game he was a little bit fast, but as he settled in, he got better and better."

And in summary, "The offensive line, the entire defense, what a performance by those guys. All in all, a lot of good stuff, some stuff to clean up. You know, some happy guys in the locker room right there today. Right back to work tomorrow."

The Homecoming game is Saturday, Oct. 28th at 3:30. The Virginia Cavaliers (2-5, 1-2) are coming off a 31-27 win at North Carolina who were #10 going into the game.

Men's Basketball plays an exhibition against TCNJ (The College of New Jersey) on Sunday, Oct. 29th at 2:00. Admission is FREE, as in FREE. Come on up to the on-campus Watsco Center and bring the family. You have a chance to see a 2023 NCAA Tournament Final Four team for FREE.

Men's and Women's Basketball preseason reports will be coming soon.

Be well all and Go Canes!